

JULY-AUGUST

1936

# EDUCATION

A JOURNAL OF REPUTATION

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### NEWS AND COMMENTS

TWINS: YOUR VOTE AND YOUR WELFARE

By HARRY T. STEWART

THE HOUSING AND RENT SITUATION IN HARLEM

By DONEGAN J. PHILLIPS

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND

By FRANK W. JILES

### ENTERTAINMENT

### POEMS

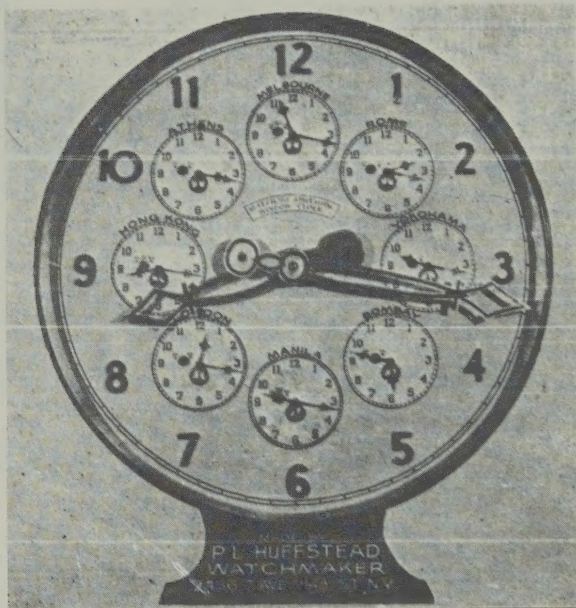
5 Cents

Per Copy

Published by

NEGRO NEEDS SOCIETY

NEW YORK, N. Y.



#### FACTS ABOUT THE CLOCK.

1. Costs over \$1,000.
2. Took two and a half years to build.
3. Carries accurate time simultaneously for 9 cities.
4. Color in code dial changes from blue to red every 12 hours.
5. Color shows periods of A. M. and P. M. in the different cities.
6. Constructed by P. L. HUFFSTEAD.

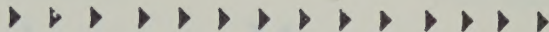
2456 Seventh Ave., New York City

*We Buy*

**OLD GOLD — WATCHES and DIAMONDS**



# EDUCATION



EDUCATION, a journal of reputation, is published by NEGRO NEEDS SOCIETY once each month with the exception of July and August, when those months are combined into a special summer vacation (July-August) number: 5c, the copy; subscription: 50c, per year; through the mail, 65c.

H. S. McFARLAND, Editor; W. E. DINGWALL, LL. B., Secretary; JOHNNIE KELLY, Treasurer; HARRY T. STEWART, Advertising Agent and Circulation Manager.

OFFICE of Magazine: 654 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, N. Y.

OFFICE of Society: 3142—104th Street, Corona, L. I., New York. Telephone: NEwtown 9-5435.

Vol. II.

JULY-AUGUST, 1936

No. 3.

## THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN HARLEM

We have heard from Mayor LaGuardia *via* improvement of our parks, hospital and low cost housing project; from our landlords in a landlords' promise not to increase rents unless where absolutely necessary while undertaking the renovation of fire-traps and other ailing buildings—the institution of a fire-retard system made possible by the passage of a law which our loving landlords are still fighting to suspend; from our tenants in their united efforts to see that the landlords be themselves; from our civic, welfare and educational groups in a general appeal for more and better schools; from our politicians in an appeal for an "all-Harlem People's Party"; and last, but not least, from our business men. This latter group begs to correct this department with regard to an editorial statement published in April.

"Walk from 155th Street to 125th Street; from the East River to Amsterdam Avenue, and one will notice hardly one business of any commercial or industrial consequence," we had stated. Our business men compel us to withdraw our opinion by pointing out that "the community is blessed with Negro real estate, insurance, individual businesses, markets, fisheries, beach projects and even newspapers and periodicals." We submit as a substitute opinion, however, the formation of an exchange through which our stockholders would be able to buy and sell reputable bonds and securities without much ado and red-tape.

In the meantime we are happy to say conscientiously that things are happening in Harlem and hope that they will continue to happen for the benefit of all concerned.

— 50 —

## TO OUR VACATIONING PUBLIC.

We wish you a very pleasant vacation and hope to be with you again in September on our return from the North Pole where we will be vacationing.

---

PLATFORM—A (1) The education of our people. (2) The advertisement of the virtues rather than the vices of our people

B (1) In view of the fact that discrimination hinders rather than aids the progress of a nation, the urgent need for employment of our people in more varied fields than now exists, is obvious. (2) In view of the rapid progress of our people since emancipation, inherent ability and competence as a part of their make-up cannot be justly denied. Consequently encouragement and promotion of Negro initiative and business on a larger scale.

C Whereas housing and housing conditions are deplorable and whereas unscrupulous landlords, taking advantage of the congestion which now exists in Harlem, have resorted to the exploitation of our people in the community, a peaceful, intelligent solution is advocated.

D Proper representation of our people in State and National legislatures.

E The promotion of amicable and friendly relationship among all people.

# News and Comments

## FOREIGN

Haile Selassie lost his empire and was refused a loan of \$50,000,000 in an attempt to regain same.

Is Haile Selassie a poorer but wiser man?  
Will his experiences benefit anyone?

—:0:—

John Bull has again proved himself to be the world's greatest diplomat. Although he did not relish Italy's gobble of Ethiopia, he realized that to protest at this time with arms would be taking too great a chance. And chance has never been the old man's policy. He has played the role of the little boy who ran away from a fight in order to "come back another day."

And what a day that is going to be for Italy!

—:0:—

## NATIONAL

Joe Louis, the Brown Bomber, is bombed by the German Gink, Max Schmeling, and Harlem eats hash and brown bread for a week.

Asked over the radio who was the better man, Mr. Louis answered in his accustomed calm: "Schmeling was—that night."

Now, it's up to you to prove that, Joe.

—:0:—

At the Democratic National Convention at Philadelphia a couple of weeks ago, Senator Ellison D. Smith, South Carolina's delegate-at-large took exception to certain conditions. Howbeit that a Negro minister be allowed to open a session of the Convention with prayer? Preposterous! Amazing! Declared the honorable gentleman, leaving the floor:

"The situation in the South before and since the Civil War makes it impossible for the South to recognize and accept the Negro as an equal political factor.

"Political equality means social equality and social equality means inter-marriage and that means the mongrelizing of the American race.

"There is not a man in America that has more regard for the Negro in his place than I have."

The Negro people do believe that Senator Smith has the greatest regard for them in their place, but they do believe also that the good Senator has a misconception of their place.

—:0:—

## LOCAL

Harlem has sounded the bugle call for a new party. At a two-day convention at the Renaissance Casino recently, over 200 delegates, representing some 89 social, religious, and civic organizations, elected a chairman and formulated plans for a permanent political organization. A twelve-point platform was agreed upon, including:

1. Strict opposition to the gerrymandering of Harlem.
2. More employment for Harlem people at trade union wages and conditions with a unionization of all workers and no discrimination of any race.
3. Adequate unemployment relief and medical care for the unemployed of the community.
4. Adoption by Mayor La Guardia of the recommendations made in the report of the committee he appointed to investigate conditions in Harlem.
5. Adequate school facilities to care for the youth of the community.
6. Abolition of fire-trap tenements and a 40 per cent decrease in rents.

## Twins: Your Vote and Your Welfare

By HARRY T. STEWART

The political guns have been fired—the Republican from Cleveland, the Democratic from Philadelphia, the Socialist from Chicago, the Communist from New York, and we have in the field a new party, the Union Party. From them respectively we have Landon, Roosevelt, Thomas, Browder and Lemke. The race is on and next November Mr. John Q. Public will pick the winner. From now until then we will have the pleasure or otherwise of hearing plenty of oratory, both good and bad. There is one big question that Mr. Public must answer before he picks the winner and on that answer rests solidly the future economic and social welfare of us all. That big question is: WHO SHALL I VOTE FOR AND WHY?

The full significance of that question and the wisdom of weighing fully its import is often missed because of blind political allegiance; because of being influenced by sweet-sounding, meaningless platitudes handed to us in emotional oratory or because of habitual lack of interest in that which is political. To all so influenced this should be borne in mind:

Today, as never before, we face an economic and social crisis so tremendous that only our government can cope with it. Just as past experience teaches us that a gun fired at a target and hitting it, if fired in like manner the second time will hit it again, we should know that if a government is so administered that it brought a grave economic and social crisis once, that same type of government administered in like manner again, will bring us a second economic and social crisis. Therefore, it is evident, that some change or experimentation is necessary. Realizing this, it is our duty for the protection of ourselves to study what is offered by our political parties and what effect that which is offered will have on our welfare.

Below are some questions that mark the most outstanding differences between the political parties and I believe that one who is thoroughly conversant with the import of each will be able in November to intelligently answer that big question: WHO SHALL I VOTE FOR, AND WHY? and be able to vote protection of their future economic and social welfare.

1. Low cost housing program—Does such aid or injure us socially and individually?
2. Direct relief or work relief—which is preferable? And could states do as good a job administering relief as the Federal Government?
3. Federal regulation of utilities—Do we gain or lose by such?
4. Labor—Are laws protecting labor desirable?
5. Politics—Is the political consideration gotten by the Negro to be measured in terms of political love or political activity?

The future of the Negro socially and economically is deeply connected with the above questions. Study them from all angles.

(Mr. Stewart is deeply concerned with Negro welfare. He would be pleased to know whether or not our readers would like to have his questions analysed in this magazine.—Editor's note.)



# THE HOUSING AND RENT SITUATION IN HARLEM - A RADIO ADDRESS

By DONELAN J. PHILLIPS, President Consolidated Tenants' League

## I.

The housing situation in Harlem has been in a deplorable condition since 1920 when the emergency rent laws went into effect. Negroes in Manhattan have been forced to live in a comparatively restricted area, compelled to put up with unsanitary housing conditions, oppressive rentals and the dire social consequences that ensue from such conditions. The rest of the population of the city, however, has been helped by the increase in housing facilities in other boroughs, and the freedom to move and live wherever it pleases. Unscrupulous landlords have taken advantage of this situation.



Donelan J. Phillips

The problem has been concisely stated in the introduction to a survey prepared by the New York Housing Authority entitled "Harlem Family Income Survey", as follows:

"One of the most serious and perplexing of social problems in the environs of Harlem is the housing problem.

"Notwithstanding the fact that living conditions in Harlem vary to some extent in different sections, in six blocks—blocks 757 A & B, 1918, 1919, 2006, and 2007—which are deemed typical of the Harlem area and from which a fair conclusion of existing conditions may be drawn, there are 1900 families with a total of 6914 persons occupying 9189 rooms, or 1.3 rooms per person.

"Considering the normal standard of 200 persons per acre the following figures will show conditions to be alarming. Example: Block 1918 which extends from Lenox to 7th Avenue between 133rd and 134th Streets, has 671 persons per acre, an excess of 471; likewise there are 620 persons per acre in block 2007 or 420 above the standard. There are instances where 2 & 3 persons occupy one room as well as extreme conditions where there are as many as 11 persons living in 3-room apartments.

"Due to circumstances over which they have no control, many families are compelled to accept old law tenement accommodations. These houses are usually without heat, hot water or baths, lack proper plumbing; have only hall party lavatories, are inadequately lighted, and have poor ventilation, etc. Because of this, houses of this type are, in most instances, the only accommodations that may be obtained for reasonable rent which meet the limited income of Negro family heads. These

unsanitary conditions are found mostly East of Seventh Avenue where the greater percentage of families are on relief.

"The analysis of this study led to the following conclusion: that the Negro is compelled to choose one of two alternatives:

1. Rent a modern apartment, which necessitates paying exorbitant rents, in which case he is compelled to take in lodgers to help pay the rent, and to become acquiescent to conditions associated with overcrowding; or,
2. Rent an old-law tenement with the devastating evils connected therewith."

The above represents in concise terms conditions as they confront the Negro tenant in Harlem today. Because of these conditions, the pressing problems with which the League had to cope from its inception may be enumerated as follows:

1. The abuse of process, and distress resulting from such abuse, in practices surrounding the eviction of tenants. For example:

(a) Failure to give tenants proper notice before eviction.

(b) The injustice of denying tenant-defenders reimbursement for their trouble and expense where they succeed in defeating an unjust demand by their landlord after a hearing in open court.

(c) The refusal of landlords and their agencies to accept rents tendered by a tenant pursuant to order of the court that the tenant pay or move within five days.

2. The refusal of landlords to keep the premises at least up to the minimum standards prescribed by the Multiple Dwelling Laws and rulings of the Tenement House Department. For example: Landlords often prefer to evict a tenant rather than make necessary repairs which constitute violations of Tenement House Department rulings, especially if the violation was reported by the tenant in question.

3. The failure of landlords to abide by their agreements with tenants. For example: the landlords will promise repairs, change of fixtures, or new fixtures, etc., to interested tenants. After the tenant moves in, the landlord promptly forgets his promises and becomes incensed if the tenant insists upon his living up to them.

4. As a corollary to this—the difficulty encountered by tenants in being able to locate any one in authority when it comes to making demands for compliance with promises made at the time of letting, or for the making of required repairs.

(Continued on page 6)



In the April number of *EDUCATION*, "The Problem of the Negro Lawyer", by Attorney Horace I. Gordon elicited a whirlwind of comment. We present here an article that seems to represent the consensus of opinion. —Editor's note.)

## Reaping The Whirlwind

By FRANK W. JILES

The economic barometer of the Negro professional and business people moves in accordance with the fortunes of the masses of Negroes. In other words, if these masses prosper, they, the professional and business ones, will prosper, too. But for some almost incomprehensible reason our intelligensia has acted in the past as if these masses depended upon it for prosperity; for it elected to set itself apart from the life and problems of these people. In more ways than one, it adopted an arrogant and all too superior attitude toward these people who furnished them with their daily bread.



Frank W. Jiles

Where leadership and cooperation were expected and even sought, only scorn and selfish indifference were found. The Bourbons of the old France of pre-Revolutionary days had nothing on our intelligensia as far as "inability" to learn is concerned. This fact is demonstrated even today, despite the fact that we as a group which has been made to bear the brunt of the depression, are still grappling with the problems left in its wake!

When a member of either the professional or business world is about to be engulfed by the waves of bankruptcy, does he use his head in order to try and learn the real cause of his and our economic plights? Emphatically no! Instead, he either takes his pen in hand or opens his big mouth and pours forth maledictions upon the heads of the equally suffering masses. In his blind ranting, he usually accuses them of not supporting him; and ridiculously blames them for not having saved their earnings when times were good.

Meanwhile, the masses arch their collective eye-brows and damningly enquire: "Where were you when we were crying in the wilderness of doubt and ignorance for leadership and help? What did you do to help us to plan and to work out a course of action for the future?" Such pertinent questions always stopped him in his tracks and compelled him to beat a silent and hasty retreat. For the answers to these questions indict him and his fellows as the grossest of race betrayers in that they had turned their backs upon their duties. They had done little or nothing to guide the footsteps of their people in the good old "Boom" days prior to '29.

At this point it is well to review some of the reasons why they did not answer the cries of their less educated and less fortunate brothers and sisters. In those days almost everyone who could in the slightest way, lay claim to membership in our intelligensia was too busy doing the following things: Indulging their weakness for exhibitionism; courting the questionable friendships of the few whites who condescended to visit Harlem and other Negro centers as social equals; and strengthening the already disgusting and disgraceful barriers of intra-racial and color prejudices. So it was only natural, despite the unexpected advent of the depression that the Negro masses would turn their backs upon them. Even today many continue to hire white doctors, lawyers, and dentists and to engage white contractors to do their odd jobs. They do so with the feeling that if they must suffer from color and racial discrimination it is better to suffer them at the hands of whites who in the long run do more for them and who actually give them their livelihood. Another factor is that in so far as a Negro aristocracy is concerned, they have learned that it cannot exist unless upon their shoulders.

Although the facts herein stated present a gloomy and dangerous picture in respect to the future of the race, it can be changed almost overnight. That is, so far as the relations between the two groups are concerned. All that is really necessary is that our intelligensia take cognizance of the facts and change its attitude. This is the only way in which the members of that group can regain the confidence and respect of the workers. Let them seize the leadership away from the soap box orators who have risen to popularity and influence with the masses in the interim. Not so much so because these men have not accomplished some good, but because of their superior educational training they are better fitted for a job of this kind. However, they must bear one thing in mind: That these soap-box orators have been giving the people a courageous and practical kind of leadership and they will never again accept a pussy footing type of leadership. They want a spade called a spade and nothing else! They want our doctors to take a more active interest in community health and health problems; they want a legal aid society form of aid from our lawyers; they want more and still more adequate Big Brother and Big Sister movements among our social service workers; and most of all, they want the destruction of our vicious caste system which bars our darker women from the business world and from the social intercourse to which they are entitled. Despite the fact that this program seems rather formidable, it would be well worth the while of the intelligensia to attempt to deliver even if it takes some time. For, it is truly said, "Do not bite the hand that feeds you if you would continue to eat."





**JOHN DOE  
SAYS**

A young girl just budding into womanhood, with a warm, loving heart, an innocent and unsophisticated mind, rosy health upon her cheeks, bounding vitality in her veins, and a gay laugh in her voice, is the most beautiful object the Creator ever made. The critical period at which the change from girlhood to womanhood occurs is known as *Puberty*.

The time at which puberty occurs differs considerably in different individuals as well as in the two sexes and in the different races of human beings, always occurring a little earlier in females than in males. In this country, the average age at which the change occurs in girls is fourteen years. In tropical climates, the change occurs very much earlier. It is stated that one of the wives of Mohamet was a mother at ten years; and a case is on record in which puberty occurred in a little girl at the age of two years and pregnancy at eight. In cold climates, as in Denmark, Sweden, and the adjacent countries, the age of puberty is usually delayed to eighteen or nineteen years. In temperate climates like this it is not infrequent to observe the change as early as eleven or twelve years and as late as seventeen or eighteen.

(From "The Ladies Guide")

\* \* \*

**COUPLE O' LAUGHS**

(Before the Joe Louis—Max Schmeling Fight)

*Experience:* Joseph, make me a sentence with the word "defeat" in it.

*Joseph:* Ah pops 'em on de chin an' dey drags 'em out by de feet.

(After the fight)

*Experience:* Joseph, make me a sentence with the word "defeat" in it.

*Joseph:* Dey pops me on de chin an' ah goes down in defeat.

*First Girl:* My boy friend is the fastest thing in town. He stops for neither red nor blue lights.

*Second Girl:* How come?

*First Girl:* He is a fireman on engine No. 1.

....*Summer Numbers*....



The lady at the left represents Harlem's typical waitress picking up a little loose change at some country resort. And the toe-dancing beauty at the right gives the country gentleman an idea of the inside dope of the dark city.

These are just two types of "bells", but there are many more from whence they came. Should you be interested, just let us know and we shall be delighted to co-operate. Send us your suggestions inasmuch as we are anxious to please.

MOSES PERRY, Artist

We are trying to make EDUCATION the Magazine you want it to be. You can help us by sending in your suggestions for improvement.

## *The Housing and Rent Situation in Harlem*

(Continued from page 3)

5. The refusal of landlords to rent dwelling accommodations to Negro tenants in more desirable sections of the City.

6. The necessity for a restraining hand on landlords operating in the artificially congested areas of Harlem due in part to the discriminatory practices stated in 5.

7. And lastly, but more fundamentally, the necessity for authority somewhere to compel or facilitate the tearing down and demolishing of structures no longer fit for human habitation and the enactment of such rules and regulations as shall make the maintenance of such structures by their owners an unattractive proposition as compared with the advantages of erecting new structures in their stead.

### II

Pending the construction of new tenement houses for Negroes, which is the only solution, laws of a remedial nature help. Consequently, the following proposals were submitted to the 1935-36 State Legislature with the hope that the passage of these measures would help conditions.

1. A Bill granting Municipal Court Judges power, in Summary Proceedings for non-payment of rent, to stay eviction up to thirty (30) days upon application *ex parte*, or motion, or after trial.

2. A Bill providing that in Summary Proceedings for non-payment of rent where final order has issued with five days stay the landlord or his agent or marshal should be compelled to accept rent tendered by tenant before expiration of the stay.

3. A Bill providing that in Summary Proceedings for non-payment of rent, disbursement should be awarded to the tenant-defendant answering where the latter prevails.

4. (a) A Bill granting tenant-defendant in Summary proceedings for non-payment of rent, the right to interpose violations of Tenement House Department order to repair, as defense to the proceedings.

(b) And power to the Court to grant stay pending removal of violation by landlord on condition that tenant deposit rent in court.

(c) And power authorizing Tenement House Department to use rents so deposited to remove violations filed against the premises.

5. A Bill giving the court the power to accept as a valid defense a certificate of the Tenement House Department attesting existence of violations on the premises.

6. (a) A Bill granting tenant-defendant in Summary Proceedings for non-payment of rent, the right to interpose breach of landlord's promise to repair or furnish fixtures, as defense to the proceedings.

(b) And power to the Court to grant stay pending compliance by landlord on conditions that tenant deposit rent in Court.

(Continued on page 8)

## WITH NATURE

By A. L. BLACKMORE

Let me saunter through the fields of nature  
drinking from its spring.  
Life and happiness, from its sweet water  
every sip will bring.

Let me feel the joy of life while living  
not the serpent's hiss,  
But the warm embrace of sunshine,  
And the moon's cool, loving kiss.

All the devils that possess me, seeking  
to confound my soul,  
Let them not impair my vision of the  
field in which I stroll.

Though I sink with demons down into  
burning bowels of hell,  
Let me have the power to rise above the  
clouds where angels dwell.

Let a tall and slender rosebush blossom  
red where I'll repose,  
Skillful hands on painted marble  
show no beauty like a rose.

It will be my gentle spirit echoing  
the songs I sing,  
Let me saunter through the fields of nature  
bathing in its spring.

—:0:—

## FAITH

By A. L. BLACKMORE

You are a sturdy everlasting prop  
That keeps me drifting in an endless sea.  
When e'er I sink you pull me to the top  
To drift again, this seems my destiny.

Unutterable darkness now enshrouds,  
A worn soul cries, "why strive when naught you gain?"  
Then from behind impenetrable clouds:  
"You breathe, go on your work is not in vain."

Within a storm-tossed heart transuding streaks  
Of light and hope are glowing bright and fair,  
But with a firm and dogging stealth doubt creeps,  
Blighting the rooted tenets fostered there.

Now, radiate unstintingly your light,  
To pilot and sustain this drifting barque,  
I've labored long a helpless neophyte  
For I am blind, and stumble in the dark.



# .....Entertainment.....

## NEW YORK

Miss Carmen Shepperd presented her pupils in another of her now famous recitals. At Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, June 14th, an audience of approximately one thousand persons listened breathlessly to a rendition of fifty well trained youngsters.

Opening the program were four small children playing Newcombs "Birds in Summer Rain" followed by Spaulding's "Contented Fairy" and "La Grace" by Bohm, arranged and rendered by Miss Eleanor Lynch, is worthy of comment, although the little lady had difficulty at times in delivery. "The Dance of the Spirit", Op. 284 (Bohm) played by Claire Gallop was very rhythmic and timely, but Marjorie Capchart and Constance Lyte "took the cake" in "Gavotte" of Godowsky's "Suite of Ancient Dances".

In parts three four and five of the recital, Grace Sampson, six years old, was easily the winner, playing Harker's "Swinging in Fairyland". Runners-up were Arthur Lewis, Jr. playing Clementi's "Sonatina in C", Op. 36, No. 1; Harry Reid, Robert Richards, Barbara Mullett playing Schumann's "Knight Rupert", Op. 68 No. 12; E. Elliot Durant, Jr. and Lillian Hyde playing "Sonatina in G" by Bowden-Bethoven; and petite Arline Averaanga and Alvin Jamieson giving their interpretation of the composers' "Romanza".

Sylvia Walcott had to appear before the audience twice to receive its full acclaim and appreciation in hand-clapping for her rendition of Handel's "Gavotte". So did Roy Foote march off feeling proud after delivering very ably Wieniawski's "Keyawiak, Mazurka". Misses Constance Brown and Lucile Dixon along with the forenamed lady and gentleman carried part ten of the recital to a complete success. Miss Brown and Miss Dixon played Lincke's "Glow Worm" very beautifully. Their timing was exceptional.

Speaking of timing, the thoroughness of the pupils' training was evidenced when the Overture of the Opera "Carmen" by Sartorio-Bizet was played by nine children sitting at three pianos—they all finished on time.

Among the bigger participants who distinguished themselves were the Misses Barbara and Marjorie Mullett, Pearl Atherton, Marjorie Capchart, Dorothy Fairclough, Gloria Johnson and Barbara Brown. Miss Atherton displayed a



MISS CARMEN SHEPPERD  
(Graduate Juilliard School of Music; student Teachers' College, Columbia University.)

decided knowledge of her work and a mastery and control quite unusual in the normal student.

But the surprise and thrill of the afternoon was something distinctly novel: the fifty pupils in a performance of Bernhard Romberg's toy symphony "Kinder-Symphonie", Miss Shepperd conducting. In the symphony were toys of all kinds—triangles, tambourines, rattles, castanets, cuckoos, quails, etc. and the net result of these strange combinations of sounds was a monster triumph for the conductress. Miss Shepperd's ability as a teacher and artist was well exemplified in the performance of all of her pupils.

## LONG ISLAND

Having witnessed several public performances by youngsters in training, exhibiting their talent, we feel it proper to say a word or two of encouragement and a word or two relative to the value of such training.

Just as flower gardens produce according to cultivation received, so do our young. Thus the academic, other fields of training prove vastly beneficial to the young because of the certain fullness of development it gives them.

At the Jewish Synagogue in Flushing, L. I. on Saturday evening, June 20th, Miss Evelyn Williams of Corona, L. I., presented her dancing kiddies. The kiddies gave a performance deserving of high praise. Along with the many beautiful costumes there was displayed well developed talent. To see the rhythm in the youngsters' bodies, their ages ranging from 6 years to 14 years of age, to hear their voices, to witness their enthusiasm would naturally make one think of the value such training must prove in later years when suppleness of body, charm of voice and lack of timidity will be such a tremendous asset.

Congratulations to Miss Williams, to her able musical assistant Miss Violet Hamilton and to the youngsters who so ably did their parts.

## TO POETRY

(You understand so well)

By H. S. McFARLAND

The morning dawns and all around is bright,  
The grass, each blade raised high with drops of dew.  
Reflecting clouds above of azure hue,  
Intones: "Rejoice all, here comes the light."  
I stand afar, I could not fail to hear the cry.  
I heeded; revelling in the glorious view  
That passed along, I spent each hour full,  
Nor stopped to think how penalties accrue.

But then, in gazing at an aging sun,  
I sought to find a haven for my thoughts—  
Some landing place where they in peace would dwell.....  
Alas! there's no abode that's free of moths.....  
And so at eventide when day is done  
I come to you—you understand so well.



## ***The Housing and Rent Situation in Harlem***

*(Continued from page 6)*

7. A Bill providing that *Person* shall mean not only record owner but all those having direct or indirect control over the premises.

8. A Bill branding refusal to sell, lease or rent dwelling on ground of race, creed or color as unlawful discrimination.

9. A Bill providing that the New York Housing Authority should be vested with power to establish zones in abnormally congested areas where newly enacted emergency rent laws would apply.

10. A Bill providing that in condemnation proceedings where it appears that violations have been filed against the property by the Tenement House Department which have been permitted to remain for a considerable time without abatement by the owner, the property should be evaluated at the selling price of the demolished building material of the structure.

11. A Bill providing that in condemnation proceedings, the owner should be precluded from pleading any greater or longer life expectancy for his structure than that alleged on his last income tax report.

12. A Bill providing that the City of New York should be granted power to prescribe the amount of space to be left vacant on every lot utilized for construction of multiple dwelling houses.

13. A Bill compelling installation of prescribed window-space per room, in multiple dwelling structure, to insure adequate light and air, in each room.

Although these proposals had the endorsement of the Mayor's Commission, reputable social agencies throughout the city, and numerous delegations appearing before legislative committees at hearings on these bills who urged the necessity of enacting these proposals, the Legislature did not see fit to pass but three minor proposals, of the bills introduced.

In May, 1935, the Honorable Langdon W. Post submitted a prospectus to the Federal Housing Authority in Washington asking that \$150,000,000 be allocated for the financing of low rent housing in the midtown area of the city. Although he had previously testified before the Mayor's Commission that all Harlem was a slum area, in the preparation of his prospectus, Mr. Post failed to make any specific recommendation for slum clearance in Harlem. Immediately upon discovery of this omission, the League sponsored a mass meeting protesting Mr. Post's attitude and unanimously adopted a resolution requesting the President of the United States, Federal Housing Administrator Ickes, Governor Lehman, Mayor LaGuardia, and Tenement House Commissioner Post to see to it that a definite proportional amount of the aforesaid sum should be earmarked for slum clearance in Harlem; to wit, that section of the City of New York located in the territory extending from 110th to 164th Streets, between Fifth and St. Nicholas Avenues, in the Borough of Manhattan. Replies were received from the above officials to the effect that con-

sideration would be given to the resolution. Later we were informed that the McCombs site at 152nd Street was selected for the first housing project in Harlem.

Pending the construction of new dwellings, the League feels that buildings that are obsolete, and which should be condemned and demolished but are permitted to bring handsome incomes to their owners, should at least be made to comply with existing Multiple Dwelling Laws. To that end, the aid of the Tenement House Department was sought. We are happy to state that the support received from the Tenement House Department was of great help. Violations that were permitted to exist for many years are now being removed at the instance of the League, after inspection by the Tenement House Department. The Tenement House Department will bear witness that in most of the cases that are reported to them by the League for violations of one kind or another, the department has had, upon inspection, to condemn the properties involved.

### **III.**

Permit me to leave with you a few suggestions which I believe will help to solve this most serious and perplexing social problem.

We believe that the only sound remedy is additional construction for persons in the low income group through a permanent Federal Housing Agency. In order to achieve this, the people for whom it is intended must be aroused to take an active part in this program. We therefore recommend:

I. An education program throughout the country on slum clearance and low rent housing. This can be done through the medium of social and welfare agencies.

II. The fostering of tenants' organizations. Our experience has shown that such organizations have become necessary as agencies to help solve the many problems that arise between landlords and tenants from time to time. This medium can be used to propagandize the need for slum clearance and low rent housing.

III. The strict enforcement of existing Multiple Dwelling Laws and the enactment into law of the suggestions mentioned above.

IV. The increasing of the personnel of the Tenement House Department. This department is now undermanned by at least 40%.

V. Because of the great influence the church exercises on its followers, that institution should help to focus the attention of its members on this great social need by devoting one Sunday a month to discussing "better housing conditions."

### **IV.**

To summarize, I have discussed conditions as we found them in order to give you a clear picture of the problems that brought the League into being which in turn should awaken you to support the League and its activities. I have discussed the attempts made by the League to remedy these conditions so that you can see that the League is a functioning body well awakened to the problems affecting the people of Harlem.

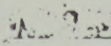
Finally, after indicating to you in part some of the indifference of the Legislators who denied us the advantages of the remedial legislation suggested above, I have suggested some of the things that might further be done in order to clear up this condition along with the final suggestion that you place in office men possessed of some community interest, who are conscientious and social minded.



8302  
 8300  
 8310  
 ESTABLISHED 1900  
**GRANT'S**  
**EMPLOYMENT AGENCY**  
*New York's Leading Colored*  
*Employment Bureau*  
 103 West 131st Street  
 New York  
 F. S. GRANT    F. REGINALD GRANT

**THE CONGO ROOM**  
**SARATOGA CLUB**  
  
 575 LENOX AVENUE  
 at Madison 3-0246    New York

Phone: Madison 3-7730  
**HOTEL FANE DUMAS**  
*American & European Plan*  
 205 West 135th Street  
 New York  
 F. C. FANE, Prop.

**WILLIE M. PERDUES**  
  
**BEAUTY SHOPPE & SCHOOL**  
 National System  
 Hot Oil Shampoo, Press & Wave \$1.50  
 INSTRUCTIONS in all Branches of  
 BEAUTY CULTURE: \$2 per hour  
 Visit for a course: \$2 a week (satisfactory)  
 No. 1—455 LENOX AVENUE  
 (Near 132nd Street)  
 1 single up    11th floor, 100 ft.  
 No. 2—228 WEST 63rd STREET  
 Cor. 125th St.    New York City  
 Phone: Edgemoor 1-5719

**C. HENDRICKS POWELL**  
 Proprietor  
**THE IDEAL HAND LAUNDRY**  
 200 WEST 146th STREET  
 New York City  
 853 ST. NICOLAS AVE.  
 Apt. 3-B    New York City

Why Ha  
**ROSE'S**  
 Wash and the Mares at Home  
 430 LENOX AVENUE  
 Length 100 ft.

**EXCELLENT TAILORS**  
 Cleaning, Pressing, Repairing  
 and Hat Cleaning  
 "SPECIAL PRICES"  
 Second Hand Clothing For Sale  
 A SPECIALTY  
 2063 SEVENTH AVENUE  
 Cor. 125th Street    New York City

I Can't Go Home  
**T. M. GUY**  
 Tailor  
 349 WEST 145th STREET  
 New York City  
 Cleaning and Pressing  
 Reasonable Prices  
 Better Workmanship  
 Photographs East 145th Street

DISTINCTIVE PORTRAIT  
**SPEED'S ART STUDIO**  
 Commercial & Theatrical Photographs  
 Studio Sitzings  
 2283 SEVENTH AVENUE  
 Bet. 134th & 135th St.    New York City

**NEWTON'S**  
**Sea Food and Bakery**  
 Excellent Food — Excellent Service  
 CORNED BEEF AND TURKEYS SOFTENED  
 I Trust I'll All Be Ask  
 555 LENOX AVENUE  
 (Bet. 138th and 139th Street)  
 FROY NEWTON, Manager

A Smiling Cashier  
*Sells you your ticket*  
 A Cheerful Doorman  
*Takes it*  
 A Courteous Usher  
*Serves You*  
 An Efficient Crew  
*of Operators Project a Perfect Show*  
*A Warm Friendly Atmosphere Prevails*  
 — AT THE —  
**ROOSEVELT THEATRE**  
 145th STREET AND SEVENTH AVENUE  
 MAKE IT YOUR FAVORITE PICTURE HOUSE!

# CALLING ALL TENANTS!

To join with the

## CONSOLIDATED TENANTS' LEAGUE

in the fight for "Moderate Rents and better living conditions"

RENTS IN HARLEM ARE TOO HIGH

WAGES IN HARLEM ARE TOO LOW

There must be an economic change in the present set-up.

Call or write

## CONSOLIDATED TENANTS' LEAGUE

209 WEST 125th STREET - Room 318 - NEW YORK

Phone: MOnument 2-3759

---

## EDUCATE YOURSELF

Self-education is the most gratifying of all occupations

In your spare time read everything you can lay your hands

upon — good and bad — *and let it benefit you.*

You can profit much by reading

## EDUCATION

### EVERY MONTH

If you do not see it on the newsstand, ask the newsdealer for it.

If he hasn't a copy, write to us. We shall be pleased to forward same by return mail.

## EDUCATION

654 ST. NICHOLAS AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.